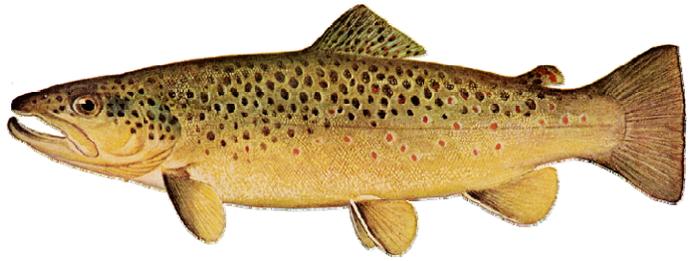


FISHING REPORT -

Updates, Notes & Reminders 2/23/2012



INLAND UPDATE

TROUT

SPRING TROUT STOCKING BEGINS EARLY – To take advantage of the mild winter conditions, DEEP began the 2012 spring stocking season early this year, releasing more than **12,300 brook, brown and rainbow trout** into a number of designated Trout Management Areas (TMA). Among the fish stocked this February are over 1,500 trophy-size trout (12 inch and larger fish) including 125 broodstock. *(all these areas are open for catch-and-release fishing during the winter and early spring).*

Last week (2/17) the Salmon River TMA (2,170 fish) and the Yantic River TMA (1,500 fish) in eastern CT were stocked. This week, the Moosup River TMA (800 fish), Hockanum river TMA (1,200 fish), Willimantic River TMA (815 fish) and the Hammonasset river TMA (1,410 fish) in eastern CT and the Naugatuck River TMA (1,450 fish), Sleeping Giant TMA (Mill River-Hamden, 1,050 fish) and the Mianus River TMA (1,160 fish) in western CT were stocked.

NOTES & NOTICES:

2012 CT ANGLER'S GUIDES - The full print version 2012 CT Angler's Guide will be published and distributed in late March/early April. An electronic version of the 2012 Guide is available online at www.ct.gov/deep/fishing (for added convenience "smart phone" users should see page 2 for QR codes to access the fisheries homepage and the Angler's Guide).

FISHING SEASONS- Anglers are reminded that the fishing season will close after Wednesday, February 29th, on many rivers and streams and at a number of lakes & ponds. *(Please refer to the online 2012 CT Angler's Guide or the print version 2011 CT Angler's Guide for complete regulations).* **All sixteen of the state's Trout Management Areas remain open year round** (and all are catch-and-release fishing during the winter and early spring). Class I Wild Trout Management Areas (WTMA) are also open year-round for catch-and-release fishing,

NEW REGULATIONS- A number of changes to Inland Fisheries regulations have recently become effective. These include:

New regulations for the West Branch Farmington River and Farmington River (Goodwin Dam to Unionville) became effective on January 1, 2012:

- The existing West Branch Farmington River TMA is expanded approximately 1.4 miles upstream and remains "catch-and-release only" year-round with use of "barbless hooks only."
- The rest of the West Branch Farmington River and the Farmington River down to the Route 177 bridge in Unionville will be managed as a "seasonal" TMA, open year-round with a 2 trout/day, 12 inch minimum length from 6 am Opening Day through August 31st and "catch-and-release only" from September 1st to 6 am Opening Day.

Trout Management Lakes - "Trophy Trout Lakes" are renamed as "Trout Management Lakes." The creel limit during the March first through March-thirty first period at Crystal Lake and Highland Lake is reduced to one fish per day (from five fish).

Closed seasons- Keney Park Pond (Hartford), Lake Wintergreen (Hamden) and Lower Storrs Pumping Station Pond (on Cedar Swamp brook in Mansfield) now have a closed season from midnight on the last day of February to 6:00 a.m. on the third Saturday in April. Lake Winfield (Plymouth) is now open year-round.

Aquatic invasive species - The importation, possession and/or liberation of certain invasive aquatic invertebrates (Chinese mitten crab, New Zealand mud snail, quagga mussel, zebra mussel, Asian clam and rusty crayfish) is now prohibited (with some limited exceptions).

Fisheries information including the 2012 CT Angler's guide can be accessed at:



DEEP Fisheries Home Page



2012 Anglers Guide

DIDYMO REMINDER

Farmington River anglers are reminded that the invasive freshwater alga, *Didymosphenia geminata*, known as “didymo” or “rock snot”, was found in Connecticut in the West Branch Farmington River last year (March, 2011). This remains the only report of didymo in Connecticut.

Didymo is typically found in cold, shallow streams with rocky substrate. The microscopic didymo cell produces a stalk to attach to the substrate. Under ideal conditions, blooms of didymo can form thick mats of stalk material that feel like wet wool and are typically gray, white and/or brown, but never green in color. These mats form on the bottoms of rivers and streams, and if dense may have negative impacts on the ecological, recreational and aesthetic values of rivers with suitable habitat (cold, rocky, well-lit areas).

Anglers, kayakers and canoeists, boaters and jet skiers can all unknowingly spread didymo. The microscopic cells can cling to fishing gear, waders (felt soles can be especially problematic), boots and boats, and remain viable for months under even slightly moist conditions.

For more information on didymo and other invasive species and precautions to take to prevent their spread, visit www.ct.gov/deep/invasivespecies.

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DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



**Connecticut Department of
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